

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A catheter assembly is provided which provides a flexible catheter tube having one end provided with a catheter hub. A hollow needle having a needle hub on its end is installed in the catheter tube with its sharp end extending out from one end of the catheter tube and a portion of the needle extending through the catheter hub. A needle shield, which is on the needle within the interior of the catheter hub, is biased axially within the catheter hub with its ends being fixed to prevent axial expansion.

MLM IRV1074471.1-*-02/13/04 9:35 AM